

UGC chairman defends NEP 2020, says VC appointments crucial

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On Tamil Nadu's opposition to NEP 2020 and its effort to come up with a State Education Policy, he said, "NEP aims at making our students problem solvers and critical thinkers.

We want them to be competent and to contribute to the growth of our country and Tamil Nadu state. If the goals are the same, you can call it by any name."

On including UGC nominees in V-C search committees, he said, "The case is in the Supreme Court. All universities must follow UGC regulations as court verdicts mentioned that it has supremacy over other laws. Therefore, a UGC representative has to

be there in V-C search committees." Many Tamil Nadu universities, including Anna University and the University of Madras, have been functioning without vice-chancellors due to the standoff between the governor and the state govt.

"Universities cannot run without their leaders. You need vice-chancellors without much delay. They need to be appointed," he said. On the fund crunch of state universities, he said it's the responsibility of the state govt to fund them. He advised the institutions to raise funds through industry collaborations.

The UGC chairman said 20 universities were under the scanner for producing poor-quality PhDs and violating norms.